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COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

1939

JOHN INNES, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

ROCHDALE:

WRIELEY & SON, LTD., PRINTERS, ACKER STREET

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For the Year ended 31st December, 1939

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**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of
the County Borough of Rochdale.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Eighth Annual Report on the Health Conditions of the Borough, and the Report on the Medical Inspection of School Children for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

In accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health, this Report has been much curtailed. Arrangements have, however, been made for the preservation of the usual statistics other than in the Report so that the annual records may be available after the war in a continuous and complete form.

The first portion of this Report is statistical in character. The birth-rate is the lowest ever recorded in Rochdale, is much below the average for the Country, and is less than half the rate recorded in Rochdale as recently as 1909. The death-rate is increased as compared with last year and is equal to the average for the previous ten years. The chief causes of death were heart disease, cancer, and diseases of the circulatory system other than heart disease, in that order.

The infantile mortality rate at 55 per thousand births was very close to the figure of 53 in 1937 which was the lowest rate ever recorded in this Borough.

Only one death was recorded in the maternal mortality group which contrasts with four in 1938 and seven in 1937.

Infectious diseases showed a big decrease in incidence as compared with last year, both in the notifiable and in the non-notifiable group. In the former group Diphtheria, with 71 cases as compared with 234 in 1938, was mainly responsible for the decrease, while Measles, with 79 cases as compared with 406 in 1938, was responsible for the decrease in the latter group.

In last year's Annual Report mention was made of the fact that the work of the Department was interfered with by the requirements of the Air Raid Precautions Scheme. During 1939 the normal work of the Department was overshadowed by the large amount of detail requiring attention under this Scheme. With the actual outbreak of war in the Autumn, normal working was for a time completely upset, but by the end of the year more or less normal conditions had been re-established in respect of the hospital and clinic services.

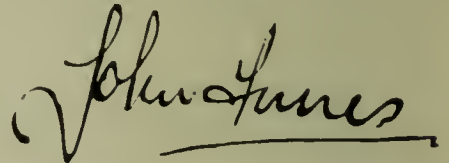
Under these trying conditions I have particular pleasure in recording my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued support and in acknowledging the loyal services of the medical, nursing and other staff of this Department.

I am once again indebted to Mr. Schofield, Lay Administrative Officer, and to Mr. Duncan, Chief Sanitary Inspector, for their assistance in preparing the Report.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
8th November, 1940.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1939.

Area (in acres)	9,553
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population, mid-year 1939	90,300
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	25,487
Estimated sum represented by a Penny Rate	£2,135
Rateable Value,	£563,621

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births. —Legitimate	939	483	456
Illegitimate	58	40	18
	<u>997</u>	<u>523</u>	<u>474</u>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.0

Still-births 50—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 48

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	1322	654	668

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes 1.

Puerperal Sepsis 1 }
Other Puerperal Causes - } Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 0.95

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	55
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	55
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	52

	No. of Deaths		Rate per 1,000 of population	
	1939	1938	1939	1938
Measles	—	3	—	0.03
Whooping Cough	3	—	0.03	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3	7	0.03	0.08
Cancer	188	181	2.09	1.98

Poor Law Relief.

The following information as to the number of persons receiving Relief on December 31st, 1939, and the amount of cash payments during the year, compared with the corresponding figures for 1938, has been kindly supplied by the Public Assistance Officer :—

	During the year ended Dec. 31st,	
	1939	1938
No. of Persons in receipt of Institutional Relief	*338	*399
Amount paid as Domiciliary Relief :—		
(a) Able-bodied Persons relieved on account of unemployment	£1,623	£2,078
(b) Poor Relief (aged and infirm, etc., persons)	£31,280	£32,246
No. of Persons in receipt of Domiciliary Relief (excluding vagrants)	*1,739	*2,068

* Statistics represent last week in December only.

National Health Insurance.

The Clerk to the Insurance Committee has kindly supplied the following information as to the number of insured persons in the Borough and the cost of medicines supplied to the insured population :—

	Year ended Dec. 31st,	
	1939	1938
(1) Total number of Insured Persons in the borough on October 1st	52,195	52,534
(2) Number of Prescriptions made up for the Insured Population	243,372	231,306
(3) Annual Cost of Drugs, Medicines and Appliances for Insured Population	£9,427	£8,645

Unemployment.

We are indebted to the Manager of the Employment Exchange for the following information as to unemployment in the Rochdale County Borough and the adjoining district of Wardle. Figures for Rochdale only are not available. The average number of persons on the Register during the year ended December 31st, 1939, is shown in the Table below, in comparison with the averages for the preceding four years :—

Year	Total	Men	Women	Juveniles
1935	6,660	4,674	1,772	214
1936	5,307	4,150	1,037	120
1937	3,985	3,168	737	80
1938	7,828	4,647	2,946	235
1939	3,877	2,853	953	71

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area.

The area of the Borough is 9,553 acres.

Population.

The Census Returns of April, 1931, show the population as 90,278, as compared with 91,290 at mid-year 1938. For the year 1939 the Registrar General gives the estimated population as 90,300 for calculating the birth rate and 89,830 for calculating the death rate.

This special adjustment has been made to meet the variations in population due to the prevailing war conditions.

Live Births.

997 live births (males 523, females 474) were registered as compared with 1,096 in 1938. The average for ten years, 1929-38 was 1,142.

Illegitimate Births, 58, or 5.8 per cent. of the total live births.

Still Births.

Fifty registered as against 59 last year.

The Live Birth-rate was equal to 11.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population, the lowest on record for this town. In 1938 the figure was 12.0 per 1,000. The average for the ten years, 1929-38, was 12.4.

Deaths.

There were 1,322 deaths (654 male and 668 female) registered as belonging to this borough as against 1,271 the previous year and an average of 1,357 for ten years, 1929-38.

The death-rate from all causes was 14.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population as against 13.9 in 1938 and an average of 14.7 during the ten years, 1929-38.

The chief causes of death are given below in comparison with the previous year:

						Year 1939		Year 1938
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	23	...	17
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	47	...	49
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	188	...	181
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	45
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	409	...	309
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	145	...	147
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	59	...	54
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	37	...	80
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	36	...	54
Congenital Debility, Malformation and Pre-mature Birth, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	38	...	42
TOTAL ...						1,024	...	978
Percentage of total deaths registered during								
the year	...	...	...	...	...	77.4	...	76.9

Table II., Appendix, shows the age and sex distribution and causes of deaths in 1939, while Table I. gives comparative mortality rates and birth rates during the past ten years.

Infant Mortality.

55 infant deaths were registered, the lowest number on record and 14 less than during 1938. The mortality rate was 55 per 1,000 births as against 63 in the year 1938, and an average of 72 per 1,000 births during the years 1929–38. Details of causes of death and age groups are shown in Table III., Appendix.

Comparative Mortality and Birth Rates.

	Death-rate All Causes per 1,000 of population	Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of population	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births
ROCHDALE ...	14.7	11.0	55
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns ...	12.0	14.8	53
148 Smaller Towns (Population 25,000 to 50,000) ...	11.2	15.6	40
ENGLAND AND WALES	12.1	15.0	50

These figures are corrected only for transfers and institutions and make no allowance for variations in the age and sex distribution of the population in different areas.

Zymotic Diseases.

The principal zymotic diseases (excluding influenza) caused 10 deaths as compared with 15 deaths the previous year, as shown below :—

	Year 1939	Year 1938
Diphtheria ...	4	5
Measles ...	—	3
Whooping Cough ...	3	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	3	7
TOTAL ...	10	15

Respiratory Diseases.

This group of diseases again showed a decrease from 144 to 106 chiefly due to the lower incidence of pneumonia.

Pneumonia caused 37 deaths, bronchitis 59, and other respiratory affections 10.

Cancer.

The arrangement with the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester, for the admission and treatment of selected cases of cancer has been continued and during the year only two cases out of 90 cases admitted to Birch Hill Hospital were referred to that Institution.

Deaths classified to this cause and shown in age groups below numbered 188 (males 88, females 100) as against 181 the previous year :—

Year	Total Deaths	under 15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-55 yrs.	55-65 yrs.	65-75 yrs.	75 yrs. and over
1939	188	—	—	13	35	58	55	27
1938	181	1	1	9	25	56	66	23

The death rate was 2.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population as against 2.0 per 1,000 in 1938.

No special investigations have been undertaken during the year in connection with the incidence or causation of this disease.

General Provision of Health Services

Nursing in the Home.

The arrangement with the District Nursing Association for the home nursing of selected cases of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, measles and ophthalmia has been continued, and during the year much valuable public health work has been done by the staff of that Association.

317 cases were visited at regular intervals and in the aggregate a total of 5,737 visits were paid to the homes of the patients.

Poor Law Medical Out-Relief.

There has been no alteration in the scheme for dealing with medical out-relief during the year.

Institutional Provision for Care of Mental Defectives.

These cases are accommodated at the Birch Hill Institution. The structural alterations referred to in the last report are now complete, providing 206 beds.

Ambulance Facilities.

There has been no alteration in the arrangements as to ambulance services outlined in the report of last year.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

Arrangements as in 1938.

There are five Centres in connection with maternity and child welfare maintained by the Local Authority, with fourteen sessions each week ; also one centre each in connection with (a) Venereal Diseases and Tuberculosis, and (b) School Medical Inspection.

The work in connection with the Corporation clinics is set out in detail in the respective sections of this report.

Laboratory Facilities.

(a) BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

There has been no alteration in these arrangements. At the Broadfield Laboratory, 4,268 examinations were carried out on behalf of this Authority as compared with 6,440 the previous year and 3,695 in the year 1937.

Chemical analysis of water and the examination of milk for tuberculosis and bacterial count, etc., were also carried out at this Laboratory.

Milk—for tuberculosis	...	...	...	165
for bacterial count and B.Coli	...			92
for meth. blue reductions test	...			92
Water	...	...	...	15

(b) PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Specimens from persons suspected to be suffering from venereal diseases examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, numbered 819, as against 754 the previous year. In addition, 148 specimens were examined by the Medical Officer of the Treatment Centre.

(c) MILK AND FOODSTUFFS.

The Borough Analyst has examined 185 samples under the Food and Drugs Acts, as against 307 in 1938. (See page 25 for further details.)

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

There are two dwelling-houses registered as Maternity Homes and two as Nursing Homes for medical and surgical cases :—

59, Boundary Street—one patient	} Maternity.
62, King Street East—one patient	
183, Drake Street—Eight patients—Medical and Surgical.	
The Law Nursing Home, Manchester Road—34 patients—Medical.	

One Maternity Home was discontinued during the year.

No adverse reports have been received regarding the conduct of these Nursing Homes.

In a compact area such as Rochdale, there is no possibility of an un-registered Nursing Home being in existence without the knowledge of the Public Health Department.

Hospitals.

The public and voluntary hospital services in the district provide 1,052 beds for sick, as shown below :—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS—

Birch Hill Hospital—General Medical and Surgical	417 beds
do. Maternity	58 „
Birch Hill Institution—Epilepsy, Mentally Infirm, etc.	206 „
Marland Hospital—Infectious Diseases	120 „
Springfield Sanatorium—Pulmonary Tuberculosis (females)	36 „
Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital—Pulmonary Tuber- culosis (males)	55 „

VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS—

Rochdale Infirmary—General (chiefly surgical) ...	110 „
The Memorial Home—Orthopædic	50 „

In addition to this number arrangements have been continued during the year to send selected cases of tuberculosis to various sanatoria, i.e., Stannington, near Morpeth ; Eastby, near Skipton ; Crossley Sanatorium, Delamere ; and The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopædic Hospital, Oswestry.

Three beds are also retained at the Hyde Smallpox Hospital for cases of smallpox which may occur within the Borough.

The General Hospital, Birch Hill.

This Hospital serves the Rochdale County Borough and the adjoining County Districts with a total estimated population of over 123,000.

During 1939 there were 3,204 patients admitted (excluding infants born in hospital) as against 3,408 in 1938 and 3,314 in 1937. Five years ago the annual admissions were about 2,700.

The reduction of 200 in the number of admissions during 1939, is due to demands made by the Ministry of Health, necessitating, at the out-break of war, a temporary restriction in the number and type of case admitted.

This hospital is included in the Emergency Hospital Scheme and is available if and when required, for accommodating casualties arising during the present war.

The following statistical summary will give some indication of the work done at this hospital.

Total number of admissions (including infants born in hospital)	3893	...	4203
Number of women confined in hospital... ..	717	...	833
Number of live births	689	...	795
Number of still-births	38	...	47
Number of deaths amongst the newly-born (i.e., under 4 weeks of age)	25	...	26
Total number of deaths amongst children under one year	52	...	56
Number of maternal deaths among women confined in hospital	3	...	5
Total number of deaths	498	...	504
Total number of discharges (including infants born in hospital)	3485	...	3701
Duration of stay of patients—			
(a) Four weeks or less	3073	...	3279
(b) Exceeding four weeks but under thirteen weeks	725	...	701
(c) Exceeding thirteen weeks	185	...	225
Number of beds occupied, average during the year 1939 (highest 425 on 22/1/39, lowest 192 on 4/9/39)	342	...	375
Number of surgical operations under general anæsthetic (excluding dental operations)	761	...	699
Number of abdominal sections	350	...	300
Number of pathological and microscopical examinations	1876	...	1830

The "Five Year Plan" for the development of the Hospital services at Birch Hill Hospital, has been suspended on account of the war. The New Nurses' Home and the Operating Theatre Unit, and Massage and Artificial Light Treatment Department, are now completed and it is proposed to open the buildings for service early in January next. The work of modernising and extending one of the Chronic Blocks, referred to last year, was about to commence when the outbreak of war stopped all such activity.

Dental Work.

I am indebted to Mr. H. Senior Ashworth, Dental Surgeon, at the General Hospital, for the following statement of dental work carried out at the Hospital, Cottage Homes and the adjoining Public Assistance Institution during the year :

Visits to Birch Hill Hospital	104
Inspections at Cottage Homes	2
Extractions	755
Fillings	146
Scalings and Gum Treatment	101

" I have attended the Cottage Homes for inspections and am pleased to report that the good condition of the children's teeth is maintained."

" Each inmate of the Male and Female Mental Wards has been examined and received the necessary treatment."

" There is an increase in the work done in the Wards and Maternity Block, also of patients receiving re-operative dental treatment prior to undergoing a major operation."

" Dentures, Orthodontic Appliances and Dental Splints have been supplied and dentures repaired for certain patients."

Blood Transfusion Service.

The panel of donors serving this Hospital and the Rochdale Infirmary totals 131, and during the year 16 donors have given service at the request of the medical staff, for which the Health Committee are grateful.

Joint Consultative Committee.

The Joint Committee consisting of representatives of the Health Committee and of the Rochdale Infirmary, appointed for the purpose of co-ordinating the hospital services, have continued their regular meetings, and many matters of mutual interest affecting general hospital administration have been discussed.

Hospital Recommends.

The Corporation are able to supply a limited number of " Recommends " for admission to the following institutions :—

Manchester Royal Eye Hospital ;
 Manchester Royal Infirmary ;
 Rochdale Infirmary ;
 Royal Manchester Children's Hospital ;
 St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester ;
 Devonshire Royal Hospital, Buxton.

Applications for these " Recommends " should be made to the Public Health Offices and should be accompanied by a medical certificate or written request from the hospital concerned.

Marland Hospital and Springfield Sanatorium.

The work at these institutions is referred to in a later part of this report.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

There were 1,085 births notified as occurring within the Borough—1,063 by midwives and 22 by doctors and parents. These figures include 548 births occurring at Birch Hill Maternity Home and classified to Rochdale.

Health Visitors.

The six Health Visitors have made 12,500 visits to homes where there are infants and young children, and over 500 visits to expectant mothers.

Each Health Visitor is also in regular attendance at the infant welfare centres, ante-natal clinics and nursery schools.

Infant Welfare Centres.

The five centres in different parts of the town have continued with their nine weekly sessions.

The attendances of mothers and children, as given in summary below, show a decrease, on the average, of 100 per week due to various causes. In the first place, a proportion of children of two to five years are now provided for at Nursery Schools, and their medical supervision at the school has been co-ordinated with the Child Welfare Scheme; consequently their attendance at these clinics is required less frequently. The general upset of war-time conditions, necessitating the temporary closing of all the clinics, together with the severe winter weather, has contributed to reduce attendances of mothers and children. Further, the greater number of mothers now employed in industry has also operated against attendances particularly for advice only.

Centre	New Cases admitted during 1939	Total Attendances of Children			Average Attendance per Clinic Session	No. of Medical examinations by M.O.
		under 1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—5 yrs		
(a) Baillie Street * (Wardleworth)	173	2,918	931	585	46 (68)	1,211
(b)*St. Luke's ...	165	3,503	1,210	898	62 (77)	1,699
(c)*St. Clement's ...	170	3,352	1,793	1,494	69 (77)	1,861
(d) Baillie Street * (Castleton) ...	211	4,032	1,602	922	35 (82)	1,960
(e) Castleton ...	91	2,053	1,248	635	82 (87)	879
(f) Norden ...	61	982	387	333	39 (37)	533
Totals ...	871	16,840	7,171	4,867	—	8,143
Corresponding Figures 1938 ...	978	18,421	8,669	6,877	—	6,751

* Two Clinic Sessions per week.

The number of children who attended for the first time and who at the date of their first visit were under one year of age was 631 or 61 per cent. of the notified live births, as against 81 per cent. in 1938.

Medical records of children attending these clinics are subsequently transferred to the School Medical Services Clinic.

The members of the Ladies' Executive Committee and co-opted voluntary helpers have continued to give their time and assistance at the various clinics and in other ways, for which service the Health Committee have recorded their appreciation and thanks.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

We are indebted to the local branch of this society and to their Inspector for their ready and willing co-operation with this department in dealing with cases of neglect, uncleanness and similar conditions coming within the purview of the Medical Officer and Health Visitors throughout the year.

Provision of Milk and Food Preparations.

The scheme for the distribution of milk and food preparations free to necessitous, expectant and nursing mothers, and to children under five years of age has been continued, and during the year ended December, approximately £1,890 was expended in this direction.

There were 607 necessitous families who shared, without payment, in the supply of 4,720 gallons of fresh milk, 150 cwts. of dried milk food and 10,350 packets of food preparation, such as Virol, etc.

Mid-day Meals.

There were 244 mid-day meals supplied free to necessitous, expectant and nursing mothers, as compared with 554 meals during 1938.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This scheme as applied to children under five years of age has been continued and 86 children of that age group have been immunised during the year, 38 at Child Welfare Clinics and 48 at Nursery Schools.

The immunisation of children at the Elementary Schools is reported on in the section of this Report dealing with School Medical Services.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

There are now six clinic sessions each week—four ante-natal clinics at Baillie Street Council School and one at Birch Hill Maternity Home, while one post-natal clinic is held at Baillie Street School.

The number of expectant mothers attending the Baillie Street Ante-Natal Clinics and the clinic at Birch Hill is shown below :—

			From Rochdale		From County Districts		Total	
Year			1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939
No. of Expectant Mothers								
attending	...	...	858	837	182	130	1,040	967
No. of Attendances	...	...	4,616	4,117	977	974	5,593	5,091
Average attendance per								
session...	...	...	22.0	17.7	4.6	4.2	26.6	21.9

The 837 Rochdale patients who attended these clinics during the year represent 77 per cent. of the total notified live and still births in this Borough, as compared with 74 per cent. in the previous year. In following up these patients the Health Visitors paid over 500 home visits.

The attendances at the Post-Natal Clinic have been maintained during the year as shown in the summary below :—

	From Rochdale		From County Districts		Total	
Year	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939
No. of Mothers attending	237	198	44	40	281	238
No. of attendances ...	317	259	63	71	380	330
Average attendance per session... ..	7.0	6.0	1.4	1.6	8.4	7.6

X-Ray Facilities.

The X-Ray facilities at Birch Hill Hospital are available when the Medical Officer desires further information as regards any patient attending the Ante-Natal Clinic.

Consultant Services.

Dr. E. A. Gerrard, of Manchester, continues to act as Consultant Obstetrician to this Authority, and in addition Dr. Evans, who acts as Senior Assistant Resident Medical Officer at Birch Hill Hospital, and is in clinical charge of the maternity services, is also available for consultation when required.

Emergency Maternity Unit.

This Unit is available at short notice night and day for service within the Borough or adjoining County Districts (Tel. No. 8294, Birch Hill Hospital). Only on three occasions has this service been called on during the year.

Orthopædic Clinic.

Children attending the Child Welfare Clinic and requiring expert opinion or treatment are referred to the Smith Street Clinic carried on by the Crippled Children's Union. Dr. Bateman's services in this connection are gratefully acknowledged.

Maternity Outfits.

Four Outfits were loaned for confinements at home during the year. Sterilised accouchement outfits may be obtained at the Child Welfare Centres at cost price or free in necessitous cases.

Dental Services.

The joint arrangement with the School Dental Services has been continued.

Dental treatment in the nature of extractions and small fillings necessary for clearing septic conditions was given to 165 mothers and 66 children.

In addition 15 necessitous and expectant mothers were supplied with part or full dentures through a dentist of their own choice.

Medical Assistance.

Midwives practising on the District requested the services of a medical practitioner in 193 maternity cases and in 32 cases of newly born children. The corresponding figures last year were 217 and 30 respectively.

In 112 cases the medical fee was paid in whole or part by the Local Authority, amounting in the aggregate to £158, as against £200 the previous year.

Midwifery Fees.

The Local Authority pay the midwifery fee in cases where the family circumstances are poor and where there is no maternity benefit available. During the year the fee was paid or allowed in whole or part in 66 cases.

Maternity Home.

There were 825 maternity cases admitted from Rochdale and the surrounding districts to Birch Hill Maternity Home, as against 925 in 1938, and 885 in 1937. The actual number of women confined was 717, of which 545 were Rochdale, 131 Lancashire County Area, and 41 from other districts.

Midwives.

12 midwives gave notice of intention to practice in this Borough; 4 of these are engaged in private practice while the remaining 8 are engaged as Municipal Midwives. Comparative figures of the year's district midwifery work by Municipal Midwives are given below:—

				Year 1939	Year 1938
Cases attended—as Midwife	...	...	...	388	356
as Maternity Nurse	...	...	...	54	63
Visits during lying-in-period—as Midwife	...	...	...	5,969	5,804
—as Maternity Nurse				870	814
Ante-Natal (Home Visits)—	...	...	...	2,526	2,471
do.	No. of patients				
	concerned	...	...	1,329	1,240
Miscellaneous Visits—Ante-Natal, etc.	...	...	...	436	475

The 4 midwives in private practice attended 73 cases of midwifery during the past year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Three cases reported, 2 of which were removed to Marland Hospital for treatment.

Maternal Mortality.

Only one death was registered and classified by the Registrar General as due to puerperal causes, as compared with four the previous year and seven in the year 1937. Calculated per 1,000 total births (live and still-births) the mortality rate was 0.95, a definite reduction on the last year's figure of 3.47.

This compares favourably with the following figures of maternal mortality :

TOWNS	MATERNAL MORTALITY per 1,000 Live and Still Births		
	1939	1938	Average 5 years 1933-37
ROCHDALE	0.95	3.47	3.93
Average 12 neighbouring manufacturing towns ...	4.26	3.51	5.31
Administrative County of Lancaster	3.76	3.61	5.00
England and Wales ...	2.82	2.97	3.89

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Four cases reported as against six the previous year, all of which made a good recovery with vision unimpaired.

Child Life Protection.

On the 31st December, there were 13 persons registered as receiving children for reward. There were 13 children registered.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

I am indebted to the Chief Officials of the various Departments of the Corporation for information included in this section of the Report.

Water Supply.

There have been no new sources of public water supply or any important extensions of mains, nor has it been found necessary to take action in respect of any special form of contamination. The supply has been satisfactory (a) in quality, (b) in quantity. Bacteriological examinations of samples of water taken from each of the reservoirs and from consumers' taps supplied from these reservoirs are made at least at quarterly intervals.

Drainage and Sewerage.

An extension scheme at the Roch Mills Sewage Disposal Works is now in course of construction. Structural work for the Activated Sludge Plant is nearing completion. When the scheme is finished, the Works will be completely modernised with Detritus Chambers, Screens, Sedimentation Tanks, etc. Most of the machinery required has been purchased and much of it already delivered.

Rivers and Streams.

The Lancashire Rivers Board are primarily responsible for the prevention of pollution of rivers and streams in this area and any cases which come to the notice of the Borough Surveyor are reported to the Board for attention.

Public Cleansing.

There were no important changes in the work of refuse collection and disposal during the year. A full outline of this organisation has been given in previous reports.

The street cleansing service was re-organised on the beat system and the Borough is now divided into forty separate districts, each with its own beat-man; an improved standard of street tidiness has resulted.

Closet Accommodation.

The approximate accommodation in the Borough at the end of December, 1939, was as follows:—

Fresh-water Carriage System ...	...	...	25,463
Pail Closets ...	...	...	1,626
Waste-water Closets ...	...	...	1,779
Privy Middens ...	...	...	40

The following shows the progress of the work of conversion of pail to water closets and also details of accommodation in December, 1939 :—

TABLE I.
STATEMENT SHOWING PROGRESS OF CONVERSION
WORK FROM COMMENCEMENT.

Period					Conversions	Additional Closets Installed	Total
1911—1920	...	...	...	...	2713	209	2922
1921—1930	...	...	...	...	7925	1360	9285
1931—1938	...	...	...	...	1446	386	1832
1939	...	...	...	...	27	4	31
Totals ...					12111	1959	14070

23 pail closets not required have been abolished during 1939.

TABLE II.
ANALYSIS OF PAIL CLOSET ACCOMMODATION
REMAINING DECEMBER 31st, 1939.

Class	Total	No sewer avail- able	Sewer unsuit- able	Scheduled in "Five Year Plan"	Remaining to be dealt with
Dwellings—Joint ...	629	148	22	437	22
Separate...	490	171	95	143	81
Churches, etc. ...	69	57	2	—	10
Factories, Works and Shops	318	132	117	—	69
Clubs	59	53	—	—	6
Licensed Premises ...	5	5	—	—	—
Farms	56	54	—	2	—
TOTALS	1626	620	236	582	188

No. of premises concerned :—

Farms	56	Schools and Churches ...	17
Licensed premises ...	2	Clubs	22
Workshops	84		

TABLE III.

STATEMENT SHOWING PROGRESS OF WASTE WATER CLOSET
CONVERSION WORK FROM COMMENCEMENT.

Period	Converted	Additional	Total
To end of 1938	349	6	355
1939	138	—	138
TOTAL	487	6	493

One W.W.C. was abolished in 1938 and one in 1939.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

524 Preliminary or Informal Notices and 15 Statutory Notices for the abatement of nuisances and the remedy of sanitary defects in and around dwellings were served on owners and occupiers and resulted in the accomplishment of works given in the classified statement below.

The statement also includes works carried out at factories and food storage premises, etc., following the service of preliminary notices.

Statement of Removal of Nuisances as distinct from work carried out under the Housing Acts.

NATURE OF WORK DONE	Nos.
HOUSES—	
Verminous dwellings disinfested	3
Dirty Houses limewashed and/or cleansed	4
Repairs to roofs, floors, walls, eavstroughing, rainwater pipes, chimneys, and general repairs to brickwork or stonework (including dampness) and repair or renewal of house fittings...	685
Insufficient ventilation of premises remedied	1
YARDS, PASSAGES, ETC.—	
Repairs to surfaces, gates, walls, etc.	16
Offensive accumulations and stagnant water removed	15
SANITARY CONVENIENCES—	
Water-closet buildings repaired	3
Pail closets and water-closets cleansed	4
Water Closet fittings repaired	33
DRAINS—	
Main or branch drains repaired or cleared	40
GENERAL—	
Miscellaneous nuisances remedied	9

DEFECTS AT PREMISES USED FOR THE PREPARATION OR STORAGE OF FOOD.

NATURE OF WORK DONE	Nos.
The use of defective or unsuitable premises	8
The use of unsuitable receptacles or utensils	1
Want of limewashing or cleansing of premises	40

DEFECTS AT FACTORIES OR WORKPLACES.

NATURE OF WORK DONE	Nos.
Absence of, or, unsatisfactory condition of sanitary accommodation	132
Want of Limewashing	54
Unsuitable surfaces of workroom walls	3
Unsatisfactory heating arrangements	2

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

During the year 286 visits were made to premises regarding which complaints had been received under the above Act. One part-time rat-catcher is employed by the Department and the number of rats caught was approximately 374. The premises dealt with include slaughter houses, dwelling houses, shop and warehouses, on which 933 rat baits, 9 tins of rat lime, and 30 tubes of poison were used.

Shops Acts, 1912 and 1934.

During the year 14 inspections have been carried out, but no notices under the Act were needed.

Offensive Trades.

The number of premises at which these trades are carried on in the Borough is as follows :—

Tripe boiling	1
Gut scraping	1
Fellmongering	1
Knacker's yard (bone boiling)	1
Rag and Bone Dealers	8

These premises have been visited regularly during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**Retail Bakehouses.**

The number of bakehouses now on the register is 215. These have been regularly inspected and cleansing and limewashing has been carried out in 94 cases after intimation by the Inspector.

A high standard of cleanliness has been maintained, and it has not been found necessary to issue any statutory notices in this respect.

Workshops.

556 inspections of workshops have been carried out during the year. See page 22 for summary of work.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The recorded observations during 1939 numbered 124. The observations were of one half-hour each and were confined to factory chimneys in the Borough. The time limit for the issue of dense black smoke fixed by the Town Council is two minutes per half hour, and this time limit was exceeded during 1939 on 13 occasions. Six notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, were served for the abatement of smoke nuisances during the year.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are 12 of these premises registered, comprising 78 rooms, and providing accommodation for 724 persons, 707 beds being provided for the use of males and 10 for the use of couples or of females.

Regular visits of inspection are paid to these premises, and it has been found that with few exceptions, they are conducted in a satisfactory manner. Some of the premises are not to be considered in all respects in accordance with modern standards.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

The number of farms on the register at the end of 1939 was 103. These were visited regularly by the Dairy Inspector and, during the year the following improvements were made under notice from this Department :—

Shippons reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	3
New Dairies provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Middensteads provided	...	...	...	...	...	2

Milkshops.

The number of shops retailing milk in bottles is 237, while the number retailing unbottled milk is 4. With the exception of two, these are registered dairies. All these premises have been visited regularly during the year.

Inspection of Premises used for the Preparation and Sale of Foodstuffs.

The inspection of premises used for the preparation and sale of foodstuffs has received constant attention during the year, and 2,104 visits have been made. The use of 12 of these premises has been discontinued on notice by the Inspector, and 40 notices have been served in respect of others for limewashing and cleanliness.

Rochdale Corporation Act, 1937.

During the year 13 premises were registered for the preparation and sale of ice cream, 32 premises were registered for the preparation and sale of preserved foods, including sausages, pressed or pickled meats, fried fish, etc. Four premises were registered for the storage of foodstuffs by hawkers, and licences were issued to seven hawkers of foodstuffs.

(See page 22) for details of work done in connection with the above premises.

Meat and Food Supply.

The foodstuffs delivered in the Borough during the year, taken collectively, show a good standard of quality.

There has been regular inspection of meat and food offered for sale, and over 31 tons have been destroyed as unfit for human food.

MILK AND DAIRIES (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1915.

Tuberculous Milk.

During the year 165 samples of milk have been taken in the Rochdale streets for the purpose of detecting supplies of tuberculous milk. These samples represented the milk of about 1,980 cows, and were taken in batches monthly. Of the samples 105 were from Rochdale Borough farmers and 60 from County farmers delivering milk in the Borough. The number found to be positively tubercular was :—

From Rochdale Farmers	...	...	...	...	5	(4.7%)
From County Farmers	...	...	...	...	7	(11.6%)

Number of Samples taken					Samples Negative	Samples Positive	Percentage Positive
TOTALS	{	Borough	...	105	100	5	4.76%
		County	...	60	53	7	11.6%
COMBINED TOTALS		...	...	165	153	12	7.27%

In connection with the 12 positive samples the necessary steps in respect of the infected animals were taken by the Ministry of Agriculture under the revised arrangement which came into force on April 1st, 1938.

FOOD AND DRUGS (Adulteration) ACT, 1928.

185 samples of food and drugs as against 307 in 1938, were obtained by the Inspector, and submitted for analysis. These consisted of 163 of milk (25 informal) of which 12 were found to be adulterated, 2 each of fruit cake, vinegar and thirst quenchers, and one each of margarine, strawberry jam, salmon, milk chocolate caramels, self-raising flour, dried fruit salad, crab fish

paste, crab spread, sweetened condensed milk, lemon cheese, cream, mint sauce, crystallised ginger, sweet mountain wine, fruitcreme and Turkish delight, all of which were taken informally and found to be unadulterated.

Borough Analyst's Annual Report.

I am indebted to the Borough Analyst (Mr. S. E. Melling, F.I.C.) for the following extract from his Annual Report :—

“ 185 samples were submitted, consisting of 163 milks, four sweetmeats, “ two each of fish paste, cream and vinegar, one each of margarine, jam, “ condensed milk, wine and lemon cheese, and seven miscellaneous samples.

“ The following Table shows that the percentage of adulterated and/or “ non-standard samples is practically double that shown in the previous year’s “ record, but too much stress must not be placed upon this, in that the total “ number of samples was 40 % less than in 1938.

Year	Number of samples analysed		Number of samples adulterated		Percentage of adulteration	
	Total	Milk	Total	Milk	Total	Milk
“ 1935	346	319	17	16	4.9	5.0
“ 1936	319	248	24	24	7.5	10.0
“ 1937	317	243	28	27	8.8	11.1
“ 1938	305	218	10	10	3.2	4.5
“ 1939	185	163	12	12	6.5	7.3

“ It will be noticed that adulteration was confined entirely to milk samples, “ which are summarised as follows :—

“ Six samples contained extraneous water in amount varying between “ 1.6 and 6.5 per cent. ; fat-deficiency, varying from 9 to 35 per cent. accounted “ for adverse certificates in respect of five samples, whilst one sample was both “ adulterated with water (4 per cent.) and deficient in fat (24.6 per cent.). “ Once again, all samples were free from preservative and colouring agents.

“ The requirements of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) “ Regulations were observed in the case of the fish paste, cream and other “ samples which come within the scope of the regulations, whilst the labelling, “ etc., requirements in respect of condensed milk were complied with. The jam “ contained a high proportion of sugar solids and the moisture-content of the “ margarine was well below the statutory limit.

“ Metallic contaminants were absent from the various sweetmeats and the “ remaining samples were of normal composition and call for no special “ comment.”

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(A.) INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

The general incidence of the chief infectious diseases during the past year has been much below the average, with 581 cases as compared with 1,147 in the previous year and an average of 1,036 cases during five years 1934–1938. The non-notifiable group of measles and chicken-pox showed the largest decrease. Comparative figures are given in the following table :—

				Average 5 yrs.			
				1939	1938	1934-38	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	132	170	...	163.6
Diphtheria	...	...	...	71	234	...	116.2
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	103	116	...	107.4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	40	42	...	49.6
*Whooping Cough	...	...	...	35	74	...	76.4
*Chicken-pox	...	...	...	76	56	...	124.2
*Measles	...	...	...	79	406	...	348.6
Other Diseases	...	...	...	45	49	...	49.8
				581	1147	...	1035.8

* Not compulsorily notifiable. Information from reports of Head Teachers of Public Elementary Schools.

Marland Hospital.

There were 419 cases admitted to this Hospital which together with 72 in Hospital on the 31st December, 1938, make 491 cases treated during the year, as compared with 727 the previous year. The case mortality was 2.5 per cent. of the cases treated as against 3.3 per cent. the previous year.

A summary of the cases admitted to Hospital is given below :—

DISEASE	In Hospital on 31st December 1938	Admitted during the Year	Discharged	Died	Remain- ing in Hospital at end of Year 1939	Average stay in Hospital of Patients Disch'rg'd — Days	Ages of Patients Admitted		
							Under 5 Years	5—15 Years	Above 15 years
Scarlet Fever	26	195	195	...	26	38	53	119	23
Diphtheria	44	166	190	7	13	41	23	110	33
Enteric Fever	...	2	2	...	...	39	...	...	2
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	8	5	3	...	27	3	2	3
Measles	...	2	1	...	1	20	1	1	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	12	12	...	...	16	1	...	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	6	5	1	...	27	...	...	6
Other Diseases	2	19	14	6	1	27	11	3	5
Tuberculosis	...	9	8	1	...	80	1	5	3
Total	72	419	432	18	41	...	93	240	86

Antitoxin.

Diphtheria Antitoxin, Scarlatina, Meninococcal and Erysipelas Sera are distributed on behalf of the Department, from the Broadfield Pathological Laboratory to medical practitioners for use within the Borough. Outside Laboratory hours, supplies are available at Marland Hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Since the inauguration of this scheme in 1934, 3,500 children have been immunised up to the end of the year under review.

(B) TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 103 cases of tuberculosis notified as against 116 the previous year and 109 in the year 1937, and an average of 107 during the five years, 1933-37.

Comparative figures are given below :—

Average 5 year periods	NOTIFICATIONS		
	Respiratory	Non- Respiratory	Total
1913—17	184	108	292
1923—27	85	40	125
1933—37	81	26	107
1938	89	27	116
1939	81	22	103

The 103 new cases notified, together with the number of deaths resulting from the disease, are arranged in the summary below :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 years	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1
5—15 „	3	5	4	3	...	...	...	...
15—25 „	9	9	1	...	3	4	1	...
25—35 „	5	12	4	3	2	6	...	...
35—45 „	9	2	...	1	4	3	1	...
45—55 „	8	2	1	...	7	3	...	...
55—65 „	6	5	1	...	6	1	2	...
65 years and over	3	3	...	...	1	1	...	...
TOTAL	43	38	15	7	23	18	5	1

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

Three clinic sessions have been held weekly and the number of new cases examined as suspect tubercular was 317, slightly less than in 1938. This number includes 107 contact cases.

The results of the examination showed that 103 or 32 per cent. chiefly adults were suffering from some form of tuberculosis, chiefly tuberculosis of the respiratory system as against 34 per cent. the previous year.

In addition 241 men were examined by the Medical Officer, chiefly under the Silicosis Scheme and the Local Government (Superannuation) Scheme.

The work in connection with the Dispensary is shown in summary below :—

	1939	1938
Number of New Cases examined	317	337
Total Number of Attendances of Patients	2,357	2,287
Number of Attendances of Old Cases	2,040	1,949
Average Attendance per Clinic (Year 1939—Highest 33 Lowest 3)	15	16
Number of Contacts examined	107	133
Dressings and Injections carried out during the year ...	476	447
Home Visits and Consultations by Tuberculosis Officer Year 1939—(71 home visits and 1,016 letters, tele- phones, etc.)	1,087	957
Home Visits by Tuberculosis Nurses	2,179	2,332
Wasserman Tests taken at the Dispensary Year 1939—(Negative 8,)	8	3
X-Ray Examinations	146	146

Financial and Other Assistance.

Necessitous cases of tuberculosis were assisted in various ways during the year :—

	1939	1938
(a) Clothing and footgear provided	10	36
(b) Extra Nourishment—Milk, Malt and Oil, etc. ...	44	47
(c) House rent paid from a special Fund during residence of patient in Sanatorium	7	10
(d) Bedstead and Bed Clothing—Loans	3	—
(e) Sets of Dentures provided	1	1

On the general question of house accommodation for families where a member is suffering from tuberculosis, a Joint Committee of the Health and Housing Committees has decided to give preference where possible to the tenancy of a Corporation dwelling house.

Residential Treatment.

There were 51 patients in residence at various Sanatoria on the 31st December, 1938, and during the year 129 other patients (77 males, 52 females) were admitted as shown in summary below :—

Institutions	In Hospital or Sanatorium on 31st Dec., 1938	Admissions			Discharged during 1939	Died	Remaining in Hospital at end of 1939	Average stay in Hospital of Patients disch'g'd — Months
		Total	Males	Females				
High Carley .....	...	4	4	...	1	1	2	5.1
Wolstenholme Pulmonary Hospital	10	44	44	...	38	7	9	4.2
Springfield Sanatorium	14	37	...	37	33	7	11	4.7
Marland Hospital ...	...	9	9	...	8	1	...	2.7
Stannington Sanatorium	10	4	2	2	6	...	8	8.7
Eastby Sanatorium ...	5	4	4	...	9	...	...	7.9
Memorial Home, Norden	6	10	6	4	13	...	3	3.7
Shropshire Orth. Hospital	3	15	6	9	14	...	4	2.2
Crossley Sanatorium ...	3	1	1	...	3	1	...	8.3
Withington Skin Hospital	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
TOTAL ...	51	129	77	52	127	16	37	

The results of treatment of definitely tuberculous patients discharged from Residential Institutions during 1939 are summarised below :—

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS (101 Cases)—

Condition at time of discharge—Quiescent	...	...	...	28
Not Quiescent	...	...	...	62
Died in Institution	...	...	...	11

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS (8 Cases)—

Condition at time of discharge—Quiescent	8
--	-----	-----	-----	---

Springfield Sanatorium.

This institution, situated adjoining Springfield Park, provides accommodation for 36 female patients, one half of which is reserved for women patients residing in the area of the Lancashire County Council. In addition to 37 Rochdale patients admitted there were 32 patients admitted from the County Area, making 69 in total, as against 59 the previous year.

X-Ray examinations at this institution continue to show an increase with 310 examinations during the year compared with 246 during the previous year and an average of 182 during the previous five years.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925 (Section 62).

The former relates to persons engaged in the milk or dairy trade who are suffering from tuberculosis, while the latter confers powers for the removal to hospital of infectious persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. No occasion has arisen during the year where it has been found necessary to make use of the powers conferred by this Act and Regulation.

(C) VENEREAL DISEASES.

No change has taken place in the clinic arrangements for dealing with this disease. There were 600 cases (409 males and 193 females) dealt with during the year, as against 655 in 1938. The number of new cases was 306 which is about the average for previous years.

The following summary gives the number of cases dealt with during the past three years :—

	Year	1939	1938	1937
1. No. of persons under treatment or observation at commencement of year	287	318	320	
2. No. of persons who ceased to attend in previous years and who returned to the Centre suffering from the same infection	—	4	6	
3. No. of cases who have had previous treatment ...	7	11	7	
4. No. of new cases	306	322	341	
	—	—	—	
Total cases dealt with	600	655	674	
	—	—	—	
5. Total attendances—Excluding irrigation, etc. ...	7,525	7,968	8,691	
For irrigation, etc. ...	5,979	6,939	9,299	
6. No. who ceased to attend—				
(a) Before completion of treatment ...	71	33	57	
(b) After completion of treatment, but before final tests as to cure	36	23	32	
7. No. discharged after completion of treatment and final test of cure or after diagnosis as non-venereal	214	294	241	

Pathological Exams.

The arrangements with the Broadfield Laboratory and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, for pathological work has been continued. The specimens examined at the Laboratories number 967 as compared with 1,162 the previous year.

**TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1939,
and previous years.**

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	LIVE BIRTHS		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett		Under 1 year of age		At All Ages	
		Number	Rate per 1,000 of est. population	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Live Births	Number	Rate per 1,000 of est. population
1929	90,900	1295	14.2	100	77	1521	16.7
1930	90,900	1245	13.7	82	66	1254	13.8
1931	91,160	1151	12.6	76	66	1369	15.0
1932	90,550	1135	12.5	82	72	1273	14.1
1933	91,340	1044	11.4	93	89	1371	15.0
1934	94,450	1170	12.4	91	78	1376	14.6
1935	94,100	1094	11.6	93	85	1311	13.9
1936	93,250	1096	11.8	76	69	1408	15.1
1937	91,940	1093	11.9	58	53	1415	15.4
1938	91,290	1096	12.0	69	63	1271	13.9
Average for years 1929-1938	91,988	1142	12.4	82	72	1357	14.7
1939	*90,300	997	11.0	55	55	1322	14.7

* Estimated Population for Birth-rate.

The corresponding figure for Death-rate is 89,830.

TABLE III.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Net Deaths from stated causes at various
Ages under one year of age—Year 1939.

CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH					Total Deaths under 1 year	
	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	1939	1938
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	...	1	1	1	1	4	14
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tubercular Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ... ..	...	1	2	...	...	3	7
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	...	2	1	...	...	3	...
Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc.	15	2	3	...	...	20	17
Premature Birth	17	1	...	...	...	18	25
Suffocation	1	...	1	...	...	2	...
Other Causes	1	...	2	1	...	4	5
ALL CAUSES	34	7	11	2	1	55	69

Net Births in the year :—Legitimate 939 ; Illegitimate 58.

Net Deaths in the year :—Legitimate infants 52 ; Illegitimate infants 3.

REPORT
ON THE
MEDICAL INSPECTION OF
SCHOOL CHILDREN.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Thirty-second Annual Report on the work of the School Medical Service.

Staff.

The school Medical Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, who is Chief School Medical Officer, a whole time and a part time Assistant Medical Officer, two Dental Officers, three school Nurses, two Dental Attendants, and two girl clerks. There is also a part time Ophthalmologist and a part-time Aurist.

For some time prior to April, 1939, the Authority employed four full time school Nurses and one clerk, but in view of the long hours being spent by fully trained nurses in doing work of a purely secretarial nature, it was decided to dispense with the services of one nurse, and to engage an additional clerk. Certain rearrangements were made in that the Assistant School Medical Officer is now accompanied by this clerk instead of by a nurse when visiting schools for the purpose of routine inspection. The change has resulted in an increase of efficiency, and in a financial saving to the Authority.

School Premises.

At the outbreak of war in September, two elementary school buildings, Heybrook and Meanwood, were taken over by the A.R.P. services. All the elementary schools were closed for about three weeks after which eight "emergency schools" were gradually reopened on a double shift system, and certain others, including the Open-air School, reopened with a maximum of fifty children in attendance at any one time. The Boys' and Girls' High Schools reopened on September 11th and October 2nd respectively. The Nursery Schools remained closed, two of these also being used by the A.R.P. services. On January 8th, 1940, it is intended that all Elementary Schools except Heybrook and Meanwood shall be open for normal school hours, accommodation being provided in other schools for the Heybrook and Meanwood children. The dinner hour will be from twelve to one-thirty at all these schools, so that infants will finish school at three-thirty, and seniors at four. There is still no accommodation in schools for children below five.

Since Rochdale is a neutral area, it has been involved in no major upheavals such as those of evacuation. Our problems have been those of finding alternative accommodation for children from commandeered school premises, the provision of air-raid shelters, blacking-out, and transport. All these difficulties are gradually being overcome.

Following the outbreak of war a scheme of shelter protection for school children was commenced.

Shelters were first erected at eight of the largest schools in the town to allow for part-time educational instruction to be given to all scholars, and several schools were accommodated on either morning or afternoon shift at these eight buildings.

Later, all schools were re-opened and shelter accommodation is being rapidly provided.

In order to allow for adequate morning and evening cleaning of the schools it was necessary to "black-out" school buildings, and a permanent "black-out" was made in cloakrooms, lavatories and corridors with paper gummed or fastened to the windows.

This arrangement, however, is not likely to be satisfactory in summer-time. It is hoped to fit all windows with curtains for the coming winter to allow the maximum benefit to be obtained during the day, whilst preserving the "black-out" for cleaning times.

Schools and Scholars.

There are 31 elementary schools (including two Central Schools), one open-air school, two municipal high schools, one junior technical school, and four nursery schools.

The number of children attending day classes during the year was as follows:—

Elementary Schools—

Infants (under 5 years of age)	...	...	...	...	761
Mixed (over 5 years of age)...	...	...	...	...	9,029
Open Air School	...	...	...	...	120
					<u>9,910</u>
Elementary Schools (Total)	...	...	...	...	9,910
High Schools ...	...	...	...	...	660
Day Commercial	...	...	...	...	86
Junior Technical	...	...	...	...	96
					<u>10,752</u>
Nursery Schools	...	...	...	...	294
					<u>11,046</u>

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Elementary Schools.

Normal routine inspection re-commenced on Monday, October 9th, immediately after the first school reopened.

Twenty-one elementary schools were inspected during the year, including the usual groups of routine, special and re-examinations. In addition to this, a nutrition survey was made at all schools inspected after the outbreak of war. The break of a month due to the closure of the schools, and the increased time now spent at each school on this survey work has made it impossible to visit all schools during the year, as has usually been the custom.

Central Schools.

The Boys' Central School was inspected but not the Girls' School, which will be visited early in 1940.

Junior Technical School.

This school was again inspected.

Secondary Schools.

The Boys' High School only has been inspected during the year, and the Girls' School will be inspected in January next.

The Open-air School.

This school has been visited once weekly, except during the period of six weeks in September and October during which it was closed.

Total Inspections during the year by the Medical Officer.

The number of inspections made is shown below in comparison with the figures for 1938 :—

				1938		1939
				<hr/>		<hr/>
Routine Inspections						
at Elementary Schools	...	...	...	3,116	...	3,510
at Secondary and Technical Schools	...			305	...	172
Special Inspections	...	...	...	443	...	252
Re-inspections	...	...	...	1,074	...	509
Inspections at Open-Air School		...	...	2,593	...	1,878
Special Inspections at Clinic	...	...	...	2,492	...	1,633
Re-inspections at Clinic		...	...	5,294	...	3,537
				<hr/>		<hr/>
				15,317	...	11,491
				<hr/>		<hr/>
Cases seen by Ophthalmologist	...	...		534	...	501

It will be seen that the chief change in the 1939 figures is in the greatly decreased number of inspections at the Clinic in the Public Health Office. Although this Clinic continued to be open at the usual hours, the number of children attending remained small, not only during the period that the schools were closed, but also during the time of the "double-shift" and restricted attendance arrangement. It would seem largely true that both children and parents consider the School Clinic a place to be attended in school hours only, not during free, or holiday periods. Parenthetically it may be remarked that in the days of the monthly attendance half-holiday (now discontinued), which unluckily coincided with the ophthalmological clinic, attendances at this clinic were rarely as good on those half-holidays as when the schools were open.

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The gradual and continual exodus of the population from the centre to the periphery of the town has much increased that difficulty in following up cases which began with the reorganisation of the schools some years ago, and has been aggravated by recent slum clearance schemes. Although surprising numbers of children travel from their new housing estates to their old schools in the middle of the town, these centrally-placed schools are steadily losing their children, and the exclusion of infants of three and four since the outbreak of war has further decreased their numbers. At one such infant and junior school recently inspected, the number on the register was 153, whereas at the previous inspection there had been almost 350 children attending, nearly 70 being between the ages of three and five. Another instance of the changes taking place was that at the last inspection of a large Catholic infants' and mixed school, out of a total of 129 children examined no fewer than 69 had "flitted" since the previous inspection.

There have been no findings of particular interest during the year. The general state of nutrition appears still to improve, and it is probable that the B. or average child is a slightly better physical specimen every year as standards improve. Certainly, the time spent on medical inspection is devoted more and more as time goes on to the discovery and diagnosis of comparatively trivial conditions. It is rare to discover gross physical defect in routine medical inspection. Such cases are usually reported to the Medical Officer by the family doctor, the head teacher, the enquiry Officer or, if the defect dates from infancy, by the Infant Welfare Department.

When the schools reopened it was decided to begin a nutrition survey of each school as its medical inspection became due. This lengthens very considerably the time spent in inspecting a whole school, despite the fact that assessment by the clinical method alone is rapid. The interval between inspections will thus be materially lengthened. For this and other reasons it has been decided to supplement this clinical assessment by the regular weighing of children. Weighing machines are being purchased, and the work will be begun as soon as possible.

By the end of the year 912 children had been included in the clinical survey, and of these:—

78	were classed as "A" (excellent)	...	8.5%
724	" " "B" (average)	...	79.4%
108	" " "C" (slightly undernourished)		11.8%
2	" " "D" (badly undernourished)		0.22%

It is found that very close co-operation with the teaching staff and the parents is absolutely essential to the success of any attempt to improve the condition of the undernourished child. Only rarely, after discussion with parents, can malnutrition be ascribed to lack of an adequate amount of food. The reason most often given by parents for a child's thin condition is that he is over-active; "runs it all off"; "hasn't time to eat," or "is all for play," and it does frequently seem that such children bolt their food standing up, and rush out to attend to their own urgent private affairs as rapidly as possible, often eating a cake or piece of pastry out-of-doors if allowed.

The methods of attempting to improve the condition of the child with malnutrition vary according to the case, each being considered on its own merits. In some cases it is felt that if the child will begin to take school milk, or drink a second bottle in the afternoon nothing further will be necessary. Much advice is given to parents on the value of adequate protein and protective food, and the advantage of varying the diet, including different methods of cooking and preparation. Most working class households have a very monotonous diet, more from conservatism and lack of knowledge than from actual financial inability to purchase variety. In this district good food is cheap and can be bought in great variety, and economic conditions, which have never suffered the worst effects of industrial depression and unemployment, are improving

Whenever possible, the parents of all undernourished children are interviewed. When this is impossible, letters are sent making suggestions as to the cause of the malnutrition and its relief. Circulars extolling the value of milk and other proteins are sent to the parents of all children who are not having school milk, with a request that they shall begin doing so, and it is made clear that this milk can be allowed free to any child whose parent cannot pay for it. Where there is any local condition found in the child which can be ascribed to malnutrition (spots, dental caries, poor hair, bad posture, etc.) a personal letter is sent to the parent as well, urging that the milk shall be taken. The co-operation of the teaching staff is most valuable and much appreciated, and largely on account of this it is usual for the consumption of milk in a school to increase after the Medical Inspection.

The worst cases of malnutrition are admitted to the Open-Air School, or to the Memorial Home; others, suffering from the temporary after effects of an illness, are recommended for the Convalescent Home at St. Annes.

It has frequently been noticed that the incidence of visual defects is greater at the "poor" schools than at the good ones. This was particularly marked during the last year when the inspection of a "poor school" (a) happened to follow immediately on that of a "good school," (b) in a better district where the parents' average financial position would be much higher. The findings were as follows :—

			Total inspected	C. Nutrition	Visual defect (referred to ophthalmolo- gist)
(a) Poor School	...	...	369	24=6.5%	46=12.4%
(b) Good School	...	...	317	8=2.4%	14= 4.4%

Uncleanliness.

Each school was as usual visited three times during the year by the school nurses for cleanliness inspection. At these visits 10,166 examinations were made, and 1,039 individual children found not clean, being 10.2% of the total. The period during which the schools were closed occurred immediately after the school holidays, and was succeeded by a couple of months of partial attendance, which interfered to some considerable extent with the cleanliness inspections. The deterioration in the children's condition was not, however, as extensive as was feared, and did not occur at all in those schools where only 50 or so attended at any one time.

Minor Ailment Clinic.

The attendances numbered 8,610, including 181 cases of impetigo, 324 minor eye and ear defects, and 1,337 small injuries. The number of individual children treated (new cases) was 1,438.

The numbers of attendances and individual children treated are considerably reduced this year, not because of a reduced incidence of defects, but because of the closure and partial closure of schools mentioned above in this Report.

DEFECTS OF THE EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

As was explained in the Report for 1938, that year was considered a peak year for the work of the ear, nose and throat clinic, and it was expected that the figures would subsequently fall. This fall has begun, and during 1939 Dr. Cammock performed 181 tonsillectomies, 18 mastoidectomies, 4 submucous resections of the nasal septum, and 62 other operations such as paracentesis, and exenteration of the accessory sinuses. The following up of these cases is very carefully attended to, and involves considerable after care such as syringing at the Clinic and home visiting, etc., on the part of the school nurse allocated to this work. A number of de Vilbiss atomisers, the property of the school clinic, are constantly out on loan to children whose parents cannot afford to buy such an appliance. No case is lost sight of until the child has left school.

Tuberculosis.

There are 89 school children who have been notified as suffering from tubercular infection, as compared with 96 in 1938. Of these, 55 are pulmonary and 34 non-pulmonary cases. Of these cases :—

- 14 are at certified special schools ;
- 60 are attending ordinary elementary schools ;
- 3 are at other institutions ;
- 12 are at no school or institution.

External Eye Disease.

During 1939, 59 cases of blepharitis and conjunctivitis were treated at the school clinic.

Defective Vision.

The Ophthalmologist has held 38 Clinics during the year, and has examined 501 children, including 14 pre-school children referred from the infant welfare clinics at the outbreak of war.

DENTAL REPORT.

The following Annual Dental Report is submitted by Mr. A. C. Walker, L.D.S., and Mr. H. P. Gledsdale, L.D.S., Dental Officers.

During the year 45 school departments have been visited once, and 20 of these have been visited twice, for routine dental inspection, the total number inspected being 8,298. Of these, 4,958 were referred for treatment, the number actually treated being 3,384 including "Specials". Fillings numbered 3,056 and extractions 4,038.

The year's work has been retarded to some extent due to the war. At the commencement of the war all schools were closed for approximately two weeks, but it was chiefly owing to poor attendances during the period in which the schools were only open part-time that our work was affected. Those children, due to attend in sessions in which they were not at school, absented themselves frequently. In spite of these difficulties, which were unavoidable at the time, it has been possible to maintain the clinics as usual throughout the emergency period, a state of affairs that has prevailed in very few areas other than reception districts. The policy of maintaining the normality of the services as far as possible, has been of undoubted wisdom ; this is shown by the recently expressed desire of the Ministry of Health, that all School Medical and Dental Services should be maintained unimpaired.

During the year a further clinic has been established in Brimrod School Annexe and the whole of the children in that area and at Castleton have been treated.

It is expected that the clinic in the Balderstone area will be opened early in the year, and the whole of the outlying districts will be then covered. The clinics provided thus far have proved adequate for the individual districts of the town.

The amount of dental disease shows no obvious decrease, but there is some indication that entrants to Infant schools are in better condition than formerly, and that the younger parents show more general interest in their children's welfare and diet. The acceptances of treatment for older children are below the average and in many cases this is obviously due to the child being allowed to follow its own inclinations in the matter and many thus leave school with impaired dental efficiency.

Work of the School Nurses.

The following is a summary of the work done by the school nurses, in addition to their clerical work :—

Treatment at morning clinics	...	...	...	...	...	8,610
Cleanliness inspection	...	...	...	...	...	10,166
Inspections with Medical Officer—						
at schools	...	...	...	...	...	3,762
at clinic	...	...	...	...	...	5,589
Cases seen with Ophthalmic Surgeon	...	...	...	...	...	501
Inspections at Open-Air School	...	...	...	...	...	1,959
Home visits	...	...	...	...	...	560
						<u>31,147</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases have been notified among school children during 1938 and 1939 :—

	1939	1938
Scarlet Fever	93	127
Diphtheria	41	172
Measles	63	350
Chicken-pox	75	55
Whooping-cough	32	72
Erysipelas	—	1
German Measles	2	4
Infantile Paralysis	—	1
	<u>306</u>	<u>782</u>

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The systematic circularisation of the parents of children in infant departments was continued until the outbreak of war, and 220 children received courses of alum-precipitated toxoid. Since the war only odd cases, at the clinic, have

received injections, chiefly because of the total exclusion of the three and four-year-olds, the very group of school children who are most susceptible to diphtheria, and to whom it is most fatal.

The Day Open-Air School.

This school continued the even tenor of its course, with 120 continually on the register, until it was closed with the other schools in September. About 30 children had been discharged at the beginning of the August holidays, and about 90 were due to come back in September together with 30 new cases who had already been notified to attend on September 4th. The school reopened on October 16th for 50 only; to avoid black-out and transport difficulties the school closed at three o'clock, and tea was discontinued, the children going straight home at the closure of school. It is intended that the normal closing hour of four, with tea to follow, shall be resumed as soon as daylight conditions permit.

The 50 favoured children were very carefully selected by the Head Mistress and the Medical Officer, the ones chosen being roughly the elder ones, and those who had no long distance to travel home. The children who were not to be admitted were either excluded from school altogether or instructed to attend ordinary elementary schools, according to their state of health.

Apart from these suspensions of attendance owing to the war, 109 children left the school during the year. Of these, 20 had reached school-leaving age, one obtained a scholarship for the High School, two left the district, another emigrated to Australia, and the remaining 85 were discharged in the ordinary way at the ends of terms because their health had improved, except one case of pseudo-hypertrophic muscular atrophy, who was removed to hospital.

The variety of defects for which children are admitted remains large, and the following list of children discharged gives some idea of this:—

	Boys	Girls
Malnutrition	10	13
Pre and post-tuberculosis	6	6
Heart disease	2	4
Nervous conditions	5	6
Non-tubercular affections of the chest	7	5
Orthopædic defects	2	1
Anæmia and debility	20	14
Pseudo-hypertrophic muscular atrophy	1	—
Ketosis	—	1
Cervical adenitis	3	—
Otorrhœa	—	1
Psoriasis	—	1
Ectopion vesicæ	—	1
	<u>56</u>	<u>53</u>

The children included under the heading of non-tubercular affections of the chest are chiefly cases of asthma and bronchitis. These generally improve very considerably at Brown Hill, but the worst are only able to attend regularly during the summer months, and are at home or at the Memorial Home during the mists and dampness of our late Autumn and Winter. The girl with ectopion vesicæ had never attended school before being admitted to the Open-Air School at the age of twelve, but was able to attend the ordinary elementary school after seventeen months, completely adjusted to normal school life. The boy with muscular atrophy had attended the school for about four years until his advancing paralysis and the death of his mother necessitated his removal to hospital.

Speech Training Class.

As was expected, the number of children requiring the attention of a speech therapist, gradually increasing since the retirement of Miss Hartley in 1936, has become large enough during 1939 to warrant the appointment of a new therapist and the formation of classes. Miss Joan Pollitt was appointed to this position, and commenced work on September 4th. During the following weeks a general survey was made to ascertain the number of children suffering from speech defects, and the nature of the defects, and Miss Pollitt presents the following report :—

Altogether 258 cases were referred by the Medical Officer and the Head Teachers.

Of this total, 143 were found to have speech defects, 48 to be stammerers.

24 were slight cases who have not yet been interviewed, 19 do not require treatment at a speech clinic, although in many cases general speech training would be of great benefit in order to improve lazy speech habits. Two are cases of severe reading problems, but with no speech defects. In both cases intelligence is below the average.

Three are children under five who are not now attending school. One is a case of cleft palate.

1. The children with speech defects.

Type of defect—

Idioglossia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Extremely severe dyslalia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Moderately severe dyslalia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Cleft palate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rhinolalia aperta (other than cleft palate)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rhinolalia clausa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defects probably due to nasal obstruction which may clear up following operation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Carried forward	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60

Brought forward	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Tongue-tie ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lateral sigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Nasal sigmatism ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lateral and nasal sigmatism	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lisp ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dysphonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dysarthria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Very slight aphasia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diagnosis doubtful	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Very slight articulation defects, some of which may clear up without treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
							<hr/> 143 <hr/>

The intelligence of 33 of these children is below the average.

2. Stammerers.

(a) Stammerers requiring treatment—Boys 30 ; Girls 5	...	35
(b) Incipient stammerers, and children who formerly stammered but have improved. Contact will be kept with these	... ..	13
		<hr/> 48 <hr/>

All the children in the above groups attended the speech clinic with their parent for preliminary interview and testing. 30 were referred to the Medical Officer, since medical or surgical treatment appeared advisable in connection with their speech defects, and 14 of these have undergone operations at the Infirmary by Dr. Cammock, through the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic. One boy of 13 is to receive treatment for a cleft of the hard and soft palate in Manchester, and will attend the Clinic prior to and following this treatment.

The elder children and those with the most severe defect, together with certain others who needed special attention were selected to attend the Clinic from the opening date, November 30th. Those with speech defects were instructed to attend twice a week for treatment either individually or in small groups. Three groups of stammerers were formed, each to attend twice a week. The clinic is situated at an elementary school near the centre of the town, in a room admirably suited to its purpose, except that it is rather small. Ten is the recognised number for a group of stammerers, but it has had to be reduced to eight, in view of the size of the room.

Definite times and days for attendance have been given to each child, who is given a ticket to show his Head Teacher.

The Speech Therapist has visited the schools and has become acquainted with the Head Teachers, with whom, as with the parents, she works in close co-operation. Medical inspections will take place every few months, and when improvements seem to warrant discharge, the Medical Officer will discharge the child. Before discharge school and home reports will be obtained, and from time to time after discharge school and home reports will be requested, and the child will be recalled to see that there has been no relapse. Vacancies will be filled from the waiting list as they occur.

The Classes for Retarded Children.

The 40 children who attend the two classes for retarded children at Heybrook and St. Peter's Schools have been inspected again during the year. The individual methods of teaching which can be used in such classes appear to be of the greatest possible value.

Educable Mental Defectives.

Six feeble-minded children are away at Residential Special Schools, and four more at the Royal Albert Institution, Lancaster, which is not a recognised special school. 45 attend the ordinary elementary schools, and 11 more, being totally unfit for an ordinary school, are at home, either because suitable accommodation cannot be found or because the parents do not wish them to be away from home.

Ineducable Mental Defectives.

Two boys were notified to the Mental Deficiency Committee during 1939 ; in addition one boy of 16 who had not attended a special school or class was " voluntarily notified."

PROVISION OF MEALS.

During 1939, 215,595 dinners for school children have been sent out from the Central kitchens. Of these 197,502 were provided free to an average of 800 children daily. The number of children receiving free dinners has decreased rapidly during the last few months with the reduction in unemployment, and is shown in the following list :—

Month						Average number of children receiving free meals each day
January	...	...	...	...	...	939
February	...	...	...	...	...	934
March ...	...	...	...	...	...	946
April ...	...	...	...	...	...	919
May ...	...	...	...	...	...	897
June ...	...	...	...	...	...	888
July ...	...	...	...	...	...	837
August	...	...	...	...	...	755
September	...	...	...	...	...	728
October	...	...	...	...	...	634
November	...	...	...	...	...	579
December	...	...	...	...	...	544

In addition, 18,093 dinners were supplied for payment, an average of 131 each day.

In spite of the large reduction in the number of free meals supplied, it has not been possible to reduce the staff at the kitchens partly because the number of meal centres remains the same, and also because of the work of preparing and cooking meals for the A.R.P. Services.

The meals centre and the nursery schools have been registered as catering establishments. The rationing of sugar has affected the meals service more than the rationing of butter, bacon or meat, because children on the whole like their food sweeter than do adults. The shortage of sugar has so far been met by the use of syrup in cooking, but if any difficulty arises in obtaining syrup, the adequate sweetening of puddings will become a problem.

Provision of Milk in Schools.

The number of bottles of free milk provided during 1939 was 162,462, to an average of 889 children each day. Another 4,836 paid for milk each day.

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

The Nursery Schools were open until the outbreak of the War when all were closed pending the construction of adequate Air-Raid Shelters. This interference with the work of the schools was much regretted as it had been hoped that 1939 could be referred to as the first year of complete working of the Rochdale Nursery School Scheme. Howard Street Nursery School opened for the reception of 12 pupils on January 8th, 1940, and South Street Nursery School for a similar number on January 8th, 1940, and Brimrod on December 4th, 1939.

Each school has been visited each month in rotation during the Sessions, and two annual routine general inspections have been carried out for all children.

Cases requiring specialist attention have been referred for treatment to the consultant staff. Children exhibiting malnutrition, under-nourishment, enlarged tonsils, rickets, and similar conditions have been kept under observation, and examined at regular intervals, and where no improvement has been evident they have been referred for special treatment.

In cases of malnutrition, anæmia and general neglect, extra rations of milk and Cod Liver Oil were advised.

The children benefit considerably from the quiet period between 12 noon and 2 p.m., when they rest on their beds; the development of this useful habit takes some little time and effort on the part of the staff.

Cleanliness is inculcated, and the Mothers are encouraged to send their children in a clean state. Much remains yet to be done by the Mothers in providing sensible, clean clothing for their children. There were a few cases of over-clothing.

Usually, four children were given full baths daily at each of the Nursery Schools. A Health Visitor visited her particular school once a week, and carried out an inspection, giving advice on minor ailments. She was thus able to check the neglect of skin diseases like impetigo and sores.

The importance of immunisation against diphtheria was brought to the notice of the mothers by lectures, posters, and individual talks, and an endeavour was made to have every child immunised. Until the close of the Summer Session the response was excellent ; as many as 30 children were being immunised at each visit of the Medical Officer. Since the schools have been closed many of these children have been brought to the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics where they have completed the course of injections.

The diet sheets have been inspected periodically, and found to be satisfactory, allowing for a good balance of fats, proteins and carbohydrates with adequate amounts of vitamins. The meals are well cooked, and are nourishing, appetising, and daintily served.

The Mothers' Clubs met at regular intervals to discuss matters appertaining to the welfare of their children.

There is no doubt that the Nursery Schools fulfil a very useful place in the community from an educational and Public Health point of view. This view has been emphasised by experience during the period of compulsory closing from September onwards. During that period many Nursery School children were brought to the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, and an increased prevalence of minor ailments, and, in some cases, of general neglect were noticed. Many of the mothers complained that their children had poor appetites, that they were restless, mischievous, and unmanageable at home, and they expressed an earnest wish for the general re-opening of the Nursery Schools.

The Orthopaedic Clinic.

This Clinic is not an integral part of the school medical services, but is a part of the facilities provided by the Rochdale Crippled Children's Union for the children of the district. An annual contribution to the expenses of the Clinic is made by the Authority. During 1939, 89 new cases were referred to Dr. Bateman, the Union's Honorary Medical Officer, and four more were asked to attend, but the children's parents would not allow it. The new cases sent were as follows :—

Kyphosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Scoliosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Lordosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Flatfoot	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Other postural defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other foot troubles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Injuries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Epiphysitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plantar Wart	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
								<hr/> 89 <hr/>

Those children who needed operative treatment were admitted to the Memorial Home at Norden as in-patients, and the others attended the clinic for remedial exercises, generally twice a week. These children, together with some originally referred before 1939 made 3,803 attendances at the clinic for remedial exercises, massage, and other treatment.

In-Patient Treatment of Debility.

In addition to the orthopædic cases referred to above, 15 children suffering from various forms of extreme debility have been referred to Dr. Bateman for admission to the Memorial Home under the new scheme for the treatment of such cases, which was described in detail in the 1938 Report.

There has been a vast improvement in the health of every child who has been able to take advantage of this form of treatment, and it is regarded by the Medical Officer as one of the most valuable of all the arrangements made by the Authority for improving the health of the school child, chiefly because these children, discharged fit and well, are often those who had been delicate and ailing ever since infancy, and who showed no improvement from any form of treatment which could be carried out at home.

Co-operation of Voluntary Bodies.

In addition to the Cripples' Union, mentioned above, this department is very grateful for the kind co-operation given by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Committee of the St. Anne's Convalescent Home, the Committee of the Moorland Home at Wardle, and the officials of the Unemployment Assistance Board, all of whom have been as usual, most helpful during the past year.

Clog Fund.

Altogether 233 new pairs of clogs have been provided for poor children out of the Head Teachers' Clog Fund. Help of this kind is more than ever appreciated since many children have further to go to school than formerly.

Employment of Children and Young Persons.

During 1939, 146 children of twelve and over were examined as to their fitness to undertake part-time employment, chiefly the delivery of newspapers and provisions.

Children and Young Persons Act, 1933.

In connection with this Act, 10 children and young persons have been medically examined for the completion of the forms required in the event of their admission to Home Office Approved Schools. These examinations are usually made immediately before the child's appearance at the Children's Court.

Blind, Deaf and Epileptic Children, including other defects.

Nine children are at Certified Schools for the Deaf.

Three children are at Certified Schools for the Epileptic.

Ten children are at Certified Schools for Tuberculosis.

Six children are at Certified Schools for Mental Defectives.

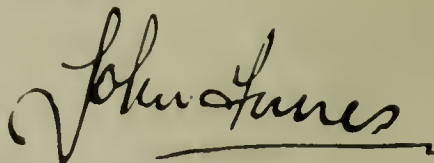
Two children are at the Bethesda Home for Cripples, now evacuated to a seaside resort.

Cost of Medical Inspection.

The cost of Medical Inspection and treatment from April 1st, 1938, to March 31st, 1939, was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	2,921	7	5
Printing, Stationery and Postage	105	3	5
Drugs, materials, apparatus and spectacles	451	16	0
Hospitals, Nursing Associations, etc....	1,463	3	0
Travelling	36	9	4
Rent	340	7	5
Upkeep of premises	20	0	0
Fuel, lighting and cleaning	25	9	8
Conveyance of children	94	4	7
	5,458	0	10
Recovered from parents	136	13	8

I have once again pleasure in acknowledging the good work performed by the Medical and Nursing Staff of this department. I am also indebted to Dr. Mills for the preparation of this Report, and to the Director of Education and his Staff for their willing co-operation in the work of the School Medical Services, and their assistance in the preparation of this Report.



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES,
ROCHDALE.
12th April, 1940.

Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.

TABLE I.

Return of Medical Inspections, 1st January to 31st December, 1939.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	595
Second Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	660
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	837
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,092
Number of other Routine Inspections...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	464
								2,556

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections ... 5,931

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the year in the routine age-groups up to 31st August, 1939.

Age Groups	Number of Children Inspected	A. (Excellent)		B. (Normal)		C. (Slightly subnormal)		D. (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants ...	572	96	16.8	456	79.7	20	3.5	0	0.0
Second Age-group ...	606	60	9.9	489	80.7	55	9.1	2	0.3
Third Age-group	649	101	15.6	495	76.3	51	7.9	2	0.3
Other Routine Inspections ...	310	30	9.7	252	81.3	28	9.0	0	0.0
TOTAL ...	2137	287	13.0	1692	79.5	154	7.4	4	0.3

TABLE III.—Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area.

Nature of Defect	At Certified Special Schools	At Public Elementa'y Schools	At Other Instituti'ns	At no School or Institution	TOTAL
Blindness	—	—	—	—	—
Partial Blindness ...	—	—	—	2	2
Deafness	9	—	—	—	9
Partial Deafness ...	—	3	—	—	3
Mental Defect ...	6	45	6	11	68
Epilepsy	3	—	—	4	7
Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	10	33	3	9	55
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	4	27	—	3	34
Delicate Children ...	54	60	2	23	139
Crippling	14	37	2	4	57
Heart Disease ...	2	19	—	7	28

Multiple Defects—

Crippled and M.D. ...	—	1	—	—	1
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TABLE IV.

Return of Defects Treated during the Year ended 31st December, 1939.

TREATMENT TABLE.

GROUP I.—Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanness, for which see Group VI.).

Disease or Defect (1)	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year		
	Under the Authority's Scheme (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
SKIN—			
Ringworm—Scalp (i) X-Ray treatment	—	—	—
(ii) Other	12	—	12
Ringworm—Body	—	—	—
Scabies	5	—	5
Impetigo	181	—	181
Other skin diseases	69	—	69
MINOR EYE DEFECTS	85	—	85
(External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)			
MINOR EAR DEFECTS	239	—	239
MISCELLANEOUS	889	—	889
(e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)			
TOTAL	1494	—	1494

GROUP II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group I.).

Defect or Disease (1)	Number of Defects dealt with		
	Under the Authority's Scheme (2)	Otherwise (3)	Total (4)
Errors of Refractions including Squint	500	—	500
Other Defect or Disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.)	1	—	1
Total	501	—	501

TABLE IV.—(Continued).

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed :—

(A) Under the Authority's Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	461
(B) Otherwise	...	...	...	...	...	—

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles :—

(A) Under the Authority's Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	395
(B) Otherwise	...	...	...	...	...	3

GROUP III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Number of Defects.

Received Operative Treatment												Received other forms of Treatment	Total number treated
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital				By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme				Total					
(1)				(2)				(3)					
(i.)	(ii.)	(iii.)	(iv.)	(i.)	(ii.)	(iii.)	(iv.)	(i.)	(ii.)	(iii.)	(iv.)	(4)	(5)
1	—	180	66	—	—	14	—	1	—	194	66	18	279

(i.) Tonsils only.

(ii.) Adenoids only.

(iii.) Tonsils and Adenoids.

(iv.) Other defects of the Nose and Throat.

GROUP IV.—Orthopædic and Postural Defects.

	Under the Authority's Scheme (1)			Otherwise (2)			Total Number Treated
	Residential Treatment with Education	Residential Treatment without Education	Non-residential Treatment at an Orthopædic Clinic	Residential Treatment with Education	Residential Treatment without Education	Non-Residential Treatment at an Orthopædic Clinic	
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	
Number of Children Treated	—	—	87	18	—	1	106

TABLE V.—Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of Children who were :—

(a) Inspected by the Dentist—

	5.....	721
	6.....	821
	7.....	874
	8.....	940
	9.....	859
	10.....	910
	11.....	869
	12.....	1001
	13.....	961
	14.....	322
	15.....	18

Grand Total 8296

(b) Specials 939

(c) TOTAL (Routine and Specials) 9235

(2) Number found to require treatment 4958

(3) Number actually treated 3184

(4) Attendances made by children for treatment 4175

(5) Half-days devoted to—Inspection	..	76			
Treatment	..	716	Total	..	792

(6) Fillings—Permanent teeth	..	3002			
Temporary teeth	..	54	Total	..	3056

(7) Extractions—Permanent teeth	..	751			
Temporary teeth	..	3287	Total	..	4038

(8) Administrations of General anaesthetics for extractions 12

(9) Other operations .. Permanent teeth	728				
Temporary teeth	437	Total	..	1165	

TABLE VI.—Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.

(i.) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses 3

(ii.) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses 10166

(iii.) Number of individual children found unclean 1039

(iv.) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority Nil

(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—

(a) Under the Education Act, 1921 Nil

(b) Under the School Attendance Byelaws Nil

TABLE VII.

Mental Deficiency Notification of Children) Regulations, 1928.

STATEMENT OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1939, BY THE LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY TO THE LOCAL MENTAL DEFICIENCY AUTHORITY.

Total Number of children notified 3.

Analysis of the above Total.

DIAGNOSIS	Boys	Girls
1. (i) Children incapable of receiving benefit or further benefit from instruction in a Special School—		
(a) Idiots 	—	—
(b) Imbeciles	1	—
(c) Others 	—	—
(ii) Children unable to be instructed in a Special School without detriment to the interests of other children—		
(a) Moral defectives	—	—
(b) Others 	—	—
2. Feeble-minded children notified on leaving a Special School on or before attaining the age of 16 ...	1 + 1 Voluntary	—
3. Feeble-minded children notified under Article 3 i.e., "special circumstances" cases ...	—	—
4. Children who in addition to being mentally defective were blind or deaf	—	—
GRAND TOTAL	3	—

